facilities by 1st July, 2004, which is mandatory as India is a contracting party to International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS, 1974), will add to maritime safety and security. India have complied with the requirement of implementation of ISPS Code before the deadline of 1.7.2004 as non-compliance thereof might have led to debarring of Indian ships and ports for international trade, which would have had adverse impact on trade and economy of the country.

All Indian registered foreign going ships and coastal vessels making occasional foreign voyages have met the requirement of ISPS Code and have been issued International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) as required under the code. As on date, 202 such ships have been issued the ISSC. Similarly, all Indian port facilities handling ships coming under the purview of ISPS Code have been issued with Port Facility Security Plan as per the requirements of ISPS Code, *i.e.* 12 major ports, 33 non-major ports and 1 ship-repair yard. As required under the code, this information has been communicated to the International Maritime Organisation.

SSI Service Institute in Tamil Nadu

1016. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up Small Scale Industries Service Institute at Hosur considering that there is a large number of Small Scale Industries located at Hosur in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there are following three Small Industries Service Institutes/Branch Small Industries Service Institutes located in Tamil Nadu:

(i) Small Industries Service Institute, 65/1, GST Road, Guindy, Chennai—600032.

(ii) Branch Small Industries Service Institute, 386, Patel Road, Ram Nagar Coimbatore—641009.

(iii) Branch Small Industries Service Institute, Plot No. 76, CGE Colony Tiruchendue Road, Tuticorin—628003.

The existing three institutes in Tamil Nadu are catering to the needs of Small Scale Industries in the State of Tamil Nadu including SSI units located in Hosur.

Financial condition of SSIs

†1017. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any concrete steps to improve the financial condition of Small Scale Industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures likely to be taken by Government to promote Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken several steps to improve the financial condition of the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) through implementation of various programmes/ schemes like Credit Guarantee Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme etc. In addition, the initiatives which have been taken to improve the flow of credit to the SSI units include enhancement of composite loan limit from Rs. 25 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh, advice to banks to adopt interest rate band of 2% above and below prime lending rates, providing collateral free loan upto Rs. 25 lakh to SSI units having good track record setting up of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Fund of Rs. 10,000 crore under SIDBI, enhancement of loan limit under Laghu Udyami Credit Card (LUCC) from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh, etc.

(c) The promotion and development of the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) is a conscious policy of the Government. While the development of SSIs is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments, the Central Government has taken several steps to improve their performance by implementing various schemes for improving the flow of credit, infrastructure development, technology upgradation, marketing and enterpreneurial development etc.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.